NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAR 3 1986
date entered APR - 3

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic LA CASA SOLARIEGA DE JOSE DE DIEGO

and/or common RESIDENCIA LERIA ESMORIS (LERIA ESMORIS RESIDENCE)

2. Location

street & number LICEO STREET NO. 52, BLOCK 363 LOT 9 ___ not for publication

city, town MAYAGUEZ ___ vicinity of

state PUERTO RICO code PR72 county MAYAGUEZ code 0650

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name DR. JOSE P. LERIA ESMORIS

street & number BOX 1598

city, town MAYAGUEZ ___ vicinity of state PUERTO RICO

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. REGISTRO DE LA PROPIEDAD, DEPARTAMENTO DE HACIENDA (RECORDER'S OFFICE)

street & number GOVERNMENT OFFICE, BARRIO MIRADERO

city, town MAYAGUEZ state PUERTO RICO

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title SURVEY & PLANNING PROJECT OF MAYAGUEZ has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _X_ no

date JULY, 1984 ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

city, town SAN JUAN state PUERTO RICO

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in late 1890, the Lería Residence is a true urban mansion. Located East of Mayaguez's center, the Lería house is an L-shaped. one story, single family dwelling with a carport. Built of wood and stuccoed masonry, the Lería house follows the construction regulations of the time: a podium rises the building from the street level to provide the floors with ventilation, the facade is lined up with the street; for the soffit, metallic net is used; perforations are provided in the high ceilings for ventilation.

The house is entered on its side, from where a foyer leads to a vestibule, living room, dining room, and a hallway. A balcony is cut out into the facade. Pilasters, cornices, dentils, iron railings and mascarons adorn the front facade.

The balcony doors are a combination of movable louvers, colored glass and ventilation transoms. The residence has four bedrooms. The living and dining rooms are the houses main asset. In these spaces, all the ceilings exhibit perforated ornate patterns which facilitate ventilation.

Red and violet colored glass is used in the transoms of the dining area. Floors are in wood and a locally produced, ornamental cement tile is appreciated in important rooms. The wood work in interior transoms is highly elaborate, based on both geometric and floral patterns.

Of particular importance is the wood screen at the foyer, a sophisticated device to control access to the interior of the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	X other (specify) HISTORIC	
		___ invention			

Specific dates End of 19th Century **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lería residence claims its position amongst the best Architecture of Mayaguez for diverse reasons. Besides being aesthetically correct and rich in classical motifs usage, its detailing and spatial layout are the product of a mature artist/builder knowledgeable of his environment and sensitive to it.

At the house are present many of Mayaguez singular traits, as Architecture goes: and L shaped plan, elaborate use of wood, adherence to local codes, provision of air circulation and decorative elaboration of ventilation devices, use of locally produced cement tile, and so on. All of it can only be found on a few structures in Mayaguez; some of these have been nominated and therefore, the Lería Residence, included.

From a historical point of view, it is important to underline that José De Diego lived in this house. Many of his finest Poems and Political writings were produced during the years he dwelled in this structure which he called "Mi Casa Solariega", (My Manor House"), in one of his famous collection of poems entitled "Pomarrosa".

José De Diego finished his law studies at the University of Havana, in 1891. In 1897, when the Autonomous Government was established at Puerto Rico, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Government and Justice. Under the Autonomous Government he was Magistrate of the Territorial Audience. In 1899 he was designated by General Brooke, to act as prosecuting attorney, and President of the Criminal Audience at Mayaguez, and in 1900 was appointed to the Executive Council by President McKinley, thus ending his judicial functions. In 1903 his legislative work began in the House of Delegates, to which he was elected by the District of Mayaguez, and as leader of the Federal Minority he fought there a memorable campaign in defense of the rights of the

9. Major Bibliographical References

DE DIEGO, JOSE POMARROSA (POEMARIO).

INTERVIEW WITH DR. JOSE P. LERIA, MAYAGUEZ, PUERTO RICO, JUNE, 1984.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 717sq.mts./.017acres

Quadrangle name USGS MAYAGUEZ 1964 **Quadrangle scale** 1:20,000

UTM References Lambert: 18°12'07.0"
67°08'10.5"

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (SITE PLAN)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	**code**	N/A	**county**	N/A	**code**	N/A
state	N/A	**code**	N/A	**county**	N/A	**code**	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title ARCH. JORGE RIGAU

organization COLEGIO DE ARQUITECTOS DE PUERTO RICO **date** SEPTEMBER, 1985

street & number BOX 2299 **telephone** (809) 724-1213

city or town HATO REY **state** PUERTO RICO

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature ARCH. MARIANO G. CORONAS CASTRO

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER **date** JANUARY 9, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 4/3/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

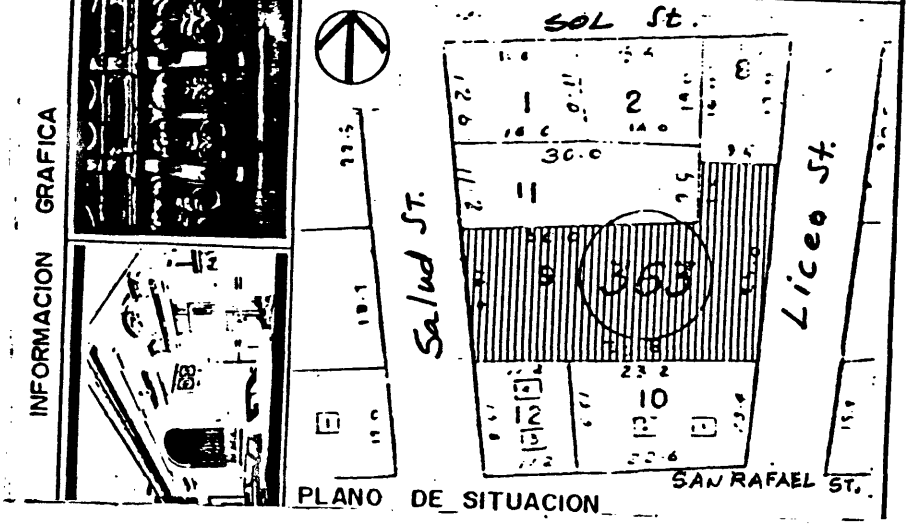
GPO 911-399

people. José De Diego was considered a prominent jurist, as an orator was one of the most applauded. As legislator he paid attention to all the fundamental problems of the country and many improvements in the law were due to his constant, thoughtful action.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

NOMBRE COMUN RESIDENCIA LERIA ESMORIS
NOMBRE HISTORICO "LA CASA SOLARIEGA DE JOSE DE DIEGO
ARQUITECTO DESCONOCIDO
DIRECCION CALLE LICEO #52 Parcela 363 Solar 9



PLANO DE SITUACION

Scale: 1:1000